

1     Claims

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3     1     Restraining apparatus for coupling two or more  
4     users comprising at least one spine member with at  
5     least two lateral attachment members for coupling  
6     the users to the spine member, the spine member  
7     having two planes, and having more flexibility in  
8     one plane than in the other.

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10    2     Apparatus as claimed in claim 1, where the  
11    spine member is an elongate rod or plate from which  
12    the lateral attachment members extend sideways.

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14    3     Apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2,  
15    wherein the spine member is inextensible along its  
16    long axis.

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18    4     Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,  
19    wherein the spine member is rigid in its vertical  
20    plane but has a degree of lateral resilience.

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22    5     Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,  
23    wherein the spine member is at least partially  
24    formed from a material selected from the group  
25    comprising plastics material, composite material,  
26    and resilient materials.

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28    6     Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,  
29    wherein the spine comprises a stiffening member to  
30    enhance rigidity in one plane.

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1     7     Apparatus as claimed in claim 6, wherein the  
2     stiffening member is at least partially formed from  
3     a material selected from the group consisting of  
4     plastics, metals and composite materials.

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6     8     Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,  
7     wherein the attachment members are releasably  
8     secured to the spine member.

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10    9     Apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the  
11    attachment members comprise elongate arms extending  
12    laterally from the spine member.

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14    10    Apparatus as claimed in claim 9, wherein the  
15    arms are flexible and/or axially extensible and/or  
16    compressible.

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18    11    Apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the  
19    arms are pivotable with respect to the spine member.

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21    12    Apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein two  
22    or more arms are provided and at least two of the  
23    arms are pivotable with respect to each other.

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25    13    Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 8-  
26    12, wherein respective attachment members extend  
27    from different sides of the spine member.

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29    14    Apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 8-  
30    12, wherein attachment members are staggered along  
31    the spine member.

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1     15   Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,  
2     including harnesses worn by each user and wherein  
3     the attachment members are adapted to attach to the  
4     harnesses.

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6     16   Apparatus as claimed in claim 15, wherein the  
7     attachment members are adapted to attach releasably  
8     to the harnesses.

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10    17   Apparatus as claimed in any preceding claim,  
11    incorporating luminous, reflective and/or light  
12    emitting devices.

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14    18   A method of securing or restraining a person,  
15    comprising harnessing the person to a spine member  
16    via an attachment member, the spine member having at  
17    least two planes, and having a different degree of  
18    flexibility in respective planes.

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20    19   A method as claimed in claim 18, wherein more  
21    than one person is harnessed to the spine member.

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